

Prairie to Pines

People and Their Environment in South Dakota

South Dakota State Historical Society 2015 History Conference
May 29 - 30, 2015

Featured Speakers

Michael “Mike” Cepak, P.E., grew up in Lead, South Dakota. He graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a BS in Mining Engineering in 1976. In 1977 he went to work as a Mine Engineer for Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation in Glenrock, Wyoming. He worked in both open pit and underground uranium mines. He returned to South Dakota in 1980 to work for Homestake Mine in Lead as a Mine Planning Engineer. Mike left Homestake in 1985 to work as a financial planner with IDS Financial Services. In 1986 he began work with the Minerals and Mining Program of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Pierre, South Dakota. Mike supervises the processing, evaluation and review of mine permit applications. He also supervises and conducts inspections of mine facility construction and mine reclamation. Mike is a Registered Professional Engineer South Dakota and a 40-year member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. (SME).

Todd Duex is the Closure Manager at the Homestake and Richmond Hill Mines in South Dakota and is the lead CERCLA manager for several sites throughout the United States. Todd has a degree in geology and has been in the mining industry for over 35 years. During that time, he has been involved in all phases of the mining industry including exploration, mine development, operations, reclamation and closure, and long-term care and maintenance. Todd has worked on closure properties since 1994 and has successfully closed both the Richmond Hill and Homestake mines. Because of water management issues at these mines, he has specialized in development and construction of water treatment systems for mine closure, with special emphasis on selenium and TDS management. Todd also manages the Whitewood Creek Superfund site and helps with the management of the Belle Fourche River Ranches in South Dakota. He also has considerable experience in collecting and interpreting geochemical data.

Kurt Forman began working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in South Dakota in 1993. Kurt is currently the USFWS Private Lands Coordinator for South Dakota—a position he has held since 2002. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and a M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana. In his current position with the USFWS, Kurt develops and administers a variety of voluntary conservation programs to assist private landowners to conserve grasslands and wetlands. Since 1986, the USFWS Private Lands program has partnered with over 6,500 landowners throughout South Dakota to conserve, enhance and restore over 700,000 acres of grassland and wetland habitat.

Dr. David Grettler, first Keynote Speaker, is Professor of History at Northern State University. Dr. Grettler received his B.A. from Pennsylvania State University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Delaware. Dr. Grettler is a historian and archeologist specializing in early American history. His current research focuses on early American environmental history, and 19th century American agriculture. He is the author of "Nora Staael Evert: A Life in Motion", as

well as several articles published in scholarly journals such as the *Journal of the Early Republic*, *The North American Geographer*, and *Environmental History*. His keynote speech will address environmental impacts on our state's landscape through the last century.

Dale R. Henning received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1969 and taught at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. In 2000, he retired as Director of Contract Archaeology, Illinois State Museum. Still active in archaeological research focused in the Midwest and eastern Plains, he enjoys Research Associate positions with the Illinois State Museum and the Department of Anthropology, U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution. Recent activities include consultation with the Division of Parks and Recreation, South Dakota State Parks, on the archaeological resources of Good Earth State Park. Note: This speaker is made possible by the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Douglas Hofer graduated from SDSU with a degree in park management in 1972. He has worked for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks his entire career in various capacities serving as Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation since 1985. Hofer is the longest serving State Park Director in the nation having overseen projects such as the restoration of Fort Sisseton, management of culturally significant national landmarks like Bear Butte and most recently the establishment of Good Earth State Park at Blood Run National Historic Landmark.

Suzanne Kelley is managing editor and co-director for New Rivers Press, located at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Kelley teaches courses in publishing, directs the activities of the Press, and pursues scholarly research in the Great Plains, Australia, and New Zealand, discovering connections between memory and place. She has presented more than thirty papers in conference settings and she has served on the Western Historical Association program committee. Her service endeavors include co-chair of the New Zealand and Australian Studies section of the Western Social Science Association and immediate past-president of the statewide organization, Preservation North Dakota. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas—Austin, a master's in history from University of Central Oklahoma—where she was awarded the Edward Everett Dale Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in History—and a PhD in history from North Dakota State University, where she was Editorial Fellow for three years. Her past publications include encyclopedia entries about Fred Harvey and the Harvey Girls in the *Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West* (Sage Publications 2006) and the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* (Oklahoma Historical Society 2007). She is the editor of two anthologies set for publication in 2015, and she is writing a biography of Oklahoma memory artist Augusta Metcalfe. Note: This speaker is made possible by the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Corissa Krueger, originally from Minnesota, traveled east to earn a Master's degree in Intercultural Communications from Boston University. Having lived in and studied conservation impacts on communities in England, India, Tanzania, New Zealand, Mexico, and Haiti, Krueger decided to return home. In 2008 she moved to the Black Hills where she had already fallen in love with the area's vast landscapes and small town communities – and most importantly her

husband William Busse whose family is rooted near Ree Heights. From private landowners to public agencies, Krueger specializes in working with people from different backgrounds to find commonalities and build partnerships for communities and for conservation. Located in Rapid City, Krueger serves as the interim Western Dakotas Program Director for The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to “Conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.” For the Conservancy, supporting and fostering working landscapes for both communities and wildlife is the key to conserving our natural resources for future generations.

Lori Lahlum, a native of North Dakota, received her PhD from the University of Idaho in 2003. She is currently associate professor of history and department chair at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she teaches courses on the American West, environmental history, and specialized courses on northern grasslands history. With Betty Bergland, Lahlum edited *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2011), and she has a chapter on women in rural Norwegian American communities in the volume. She has also published an article on Norwegian immigrant women in South Dakota, a book chapter on growing up in Norwegian American communities, and an article on a Norwegian woman homesteader and photographer. Lahlum is currently working on final revisions for a book on Norwegian immigrant women, landscape, and agriculture in the northern prairies and plains. She is also working on two additional book projects: a dual biography of two Norwegian immigrant women who settled in South Dakota and a gendered history of the Farmers’ Alliance and Populist Party in the Dakotas.

Dr. Brian Molyneaux is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology, College of Arts & Sciences, at the University of South Dakota. He is currently on assignment as the Tribal Archeologist for the Lower Brule Lakota Sioux Tribe. As an archaeologist, he specializes in the study of perception and action in the cultural landscape, with specific reference to art and ideology. Dr. Molyneaux is the author of *The Sacred Earth*, co-author of *Native North America*, and editor of *The Cultural Life of Images*. He has exhibited at the National Gallery of Canada and the Gropius-Bau in Berlin. He has been instrumental in major environmental, plant and habitat restoration projects along the Missouri river. Dr. Molyneaux has a BA in Anthropology (Honours), Trent University, BA in English (Honours), Trent University, MA in Art and Archaeology, Trent University, and a Ph. D. in Archaeology, University of Southampton, England.

David Nesheim, second Keynote Speaker, is an Assistant Professor of History at Chadron State College in Nebraska where he specializes in Environmental and Native American history, with a regional focus on the Great Plains and the North American West. He has published articles in the *Great Plains Quarterly* and *Environmental History*, and has a book in development with the University of Nebraska Press. His research interests focus on non-human actors, including bison, fish, ducks, insects, plants, water, and the land. Note: This speaker is made possible by the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Vergil E. Noble received his doctorate in anthropology from Michigan State University in 1983. He has worked as an archaeologist for the Midwest Archeological Center of the National Park Service in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 1987. For the last dozen years he has been attached to the

National Historic Landmarks program, coordinating new nominations, monitoring conditions at existing NHLs, and providing technical assistance to NHL stewards. Noble is also a past president of the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Julie Price is the Cultural Resource Program Manager, Economics and Cultural Resources Section, in the Planning Branch of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Julie is a native of South Dakota, born in Pierre. She attended college at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota, where she graduated with a composite major in Business Administration and Office Administration. Julie also completed her biological science degree in 2004 at Omaha, Nebraska, qualifying her as a Natural Resource Specialist. Her career began with the Corps of Engineers in 1988 as a student and eventually a full time Park Ranger on Lake Oahe located in Mobridge, South Dakota. She lived and worked in Mobridge for nine years, eventually accepting a promotion to the Corps' District Office in Omaha in 2002. Julie has had a wide range of responsibilities – Recreation Programs Coordinator, Intern Coordinator, Visitor Assistance Program, Project Manager for Garrison Master Plan and Oahe Master Plan as well as CMR Wildlife Enhancement Act Project Manager, Omaha District Lewis and Clark Coordinator, and technical coordinator for a variety of land management issues and programs. As the Omaha District Cultural Resource Program Manager, she is responsible for compliance of National Historic Preservation Act, Native American Graves Repatriation Act, Archeological Resources Protection Act, as well as all state and federal laws/regulations. The Cultural Resource Program includes approximately 6,000 miles of shoreline, 850,000 acres of land and 1,300 cultural resource sites. Her duties include daily coordination and consultation with five State Historic Preservation Offices, 28 tribes, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and interested parties. Julie is customer focused and strives to establish fair and equitable results that support Corps of Engineers missions, while being accountable to our partners' expectations.

Molly P. Rozum earned her Ph.D. in history from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2001, her M.A. in folklore from the same institution in 1993, and her B.A. degree in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame in 1987. Rozum has been an Associate Professor of History at The University of South Dakota in Vermillion since the fall of 2012, where she specializes in the history of the Northern Great Plains, U.S.-Canadian Borderlands, and the North American West. She also teaches women's history and South Dakota history. Prior to joining the faculty at USD, Rozum taught for over a decade at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. She grew up in Mitchell, South Dakota.

John Scheetz obtained his BS from the University of Pennsylvania and his MS in Geochemistry from the University of North Carolina. From 1988-1992, he worked for the Westmont Mining Company in South Carolina as an Environmental Manager. He was the Environmental Engineer and Manager of Homestake Mining Company in Lead, South Dakota, from 1992-2003. Halliburton Energy Services, Bentonite Mining in Wyoming, hired John as their Environmental Manager from 2003 to 2008. Since then, John has been the Environmental Manager at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead. John is a Professional Geologist (PG) and a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM).

Randy Teboe, as a member of the Winnebago/Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, has lived in Nebraska his whole life. He studied Criminal Justice at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska and has worked with the Children in Need of Supervision program, as a Tribal Court Assistant, and in Child Support Enforcement for the Ponca Tribe. He is currently the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. As the THPO, Randy is responsible for the protection and preservation of not just Tribal lands but Aboriginal homelands as well. He is entrusted with the protection and revitalization of native traditions and language, documenting traditional life ways, retention of traditional knowledge, and other aspects of the Ponca cultural heritage. This is done by working with and creating partnerships with federal, state, local and tribal governments to represent the Tribe's interests regarding federal undertakings occurring off and on tribal lands, by performing Traditional Cultural Property Surveys, and by protecting sites.

David A. Wolff is the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Black Hills State University and has taught Black Hills, South Dakota, and Western History at the university. Wolff did his undergraduate and Master's work at the University of Wyoming, and received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University. His research focuses on natural resources and Black Hills history in general. In 2009, the South Dakota State Historical Society Press released his *Seth Bullock: Black Hills Lawman*. In 2010, Wolff was named Distinguished Faculty Member at Black Hills State University, and in 2012 he received the Rodman Paul Award from the Mining History Association for Outstanding Contributions to Mining History. He also serves as President of the Board of Directors for Deadwood History, Inc. which oversees two museums, a historic house, and a research center and as Vice-President of the Board of Trustees for the South Dakota State Historical Society.

Jeffrey Zimprich is a native of South Dakota; he was born and raised on a grain/livestock farm in eastern South Dakota. He began his 30+ year conservation career in Montana as a student trainee for the Soil Conservation Service in 1983 while attending the University of Montana. After graduating with a degree in Rangeland Management, he worked in three Montana field offices as a soil conservationist and district conservationist. He transferred to Iowa in 1988 and worked in two area offices and the Des Moines State Office. He served as an assistant state conservationist for field office operations in southwest Iowa for 18 of the 24 years he spent in Iowa. He served several details in NRCS national headquarters and also completed a detail as the acting state conservationist in Illinois. He has served as the state conservationist in South Dakota approximately 2.5 years. Jeff and his wife Kim have one married son and twin daughters. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling with his wife, and time with his family.